

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT County Fire	(2) MEETING DATE 6/19/2012	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Bill Winter / 543-4244	
(4) SUBJECT Request to approve a contract with First Solar, under which County Fire would provide Advanced Life Saving-level Emergency Medical Services to California Valley for approximately \$500,000 annually, for three years.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION Recommend your Board approve, and direct the Chairperson to sign, the contract with First Solar.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) Service Contract with First Solar	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(9) BUDGETED? No
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT { X } Consent { } Presentation { } Hearing (Time Est. _____) { } Board Business (Time Est. _____)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS { } Resolutions { X } Contracts { } Ordinances { } N/A		(12) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: 1213001 { } 4/5th's Vote Required { X } N/A	
(13) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(14) W-9 { X } No { } Yes	
(15) LOCATION MAP N/A	(16) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(17) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY { X } N/A Date: _____	
(18) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW Geoff O'Quest			
(19) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) District 5 -			

County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: County Fire Chief / Robert Lewin / 543-4244

DATE: 6/19/2012

SUBJECT: Request to approve a contract with First Solar, under which County Fire would provide Advanced Life Saving-level Emergency Medical Services to California Valley for approximately \$500,000 annually, for three years.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommend your Board approve and direct the Chairperson to sign the contract with First Solar.

DISCUSSION

First Solar is the primary construction contractor on the 550 megawatt Topaz Solar Farm project currently underway near California Valley. First Solar's corporate policy requires that Advanced Life Support (ALS) level emergency medical services with a response time of 15 minutes or less be available to its workers during construction.

The County Fire Department currently provides ALS services in some areas of the County and First Solar has approached County Fire with a request to purchase this level of service in the California Valley area during the construction phase of the Topaz project. County Fire currently provides emergency medical services at the Basic Life Support (BLS) level in California Valley (Station 42), which is provided by County Fire Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). ALS level services can only be provided by more highly trained Paramedics and are regulated by the County Emergency Medical Services Agency (EMSA), which oversees the ALS system countywide.

The County Fire Department and First Solar have negotiated an agreement under which the County would provide ALS level service to the entire California Valley area during the three year time period construction is expected to take place. First Solar would bear the full cost of the increased level of service, including three new paramedic positions, and upgrading one existing position from EMT to paramedic, as well as overhead and other operating costs. Services would begin in Fiscal Year (FY) 2012-13 at a cost of \$488,268 for the first year.

The increased level of emergency medical response will be available to all residents served by County Fire Station 42 in California Valley. Services will continue to be accessed through the 911 telephone system, as they currently are, and First Solar will receive no priority or exclusive right to service above any other resident in California Valley.

ALS level service will only be provided on a temporary basis. The Topaz project construction period is expected to last three years. At the end of construction ALS level service will cease and the level of service provided by the County's California Valley Fire Station will return to BLS, as it was before the agreement with First Solar.

Under Sections 1797.204 and 1797.206 of the California Health and Safety Code the San Luis Obispo County Emergency Medical Services Agency (EMSA) is tasked with planning, implementing and evaluating the emergency services system, including oversight on the implementation of the ALS systems. The EMSA has reviewed the agreement with First Solar and supports the change to ALS, with the specifications outlined in the attached letter from the EMSA Director.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

County Counsel has approved the contract as to form and legal effect. The County Emergency Medical Services Agency (EMSA) supports the change in the level of service provided to California Valley, with the specifications outlined in the attached letter from the EMSA Director.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Services will begin in FY 2012-13 at a cost of \$488,268 for the first year. All costs incurred under the contract will be reimbursed by First Solar. No part of the cost will be paid for by, or deducted from, the sales tax revenue First Solar has agreed to provide to the County as part of this project.

RESULTS

Emergency medical services provided during the period of the contract with First Solar will be at a higher level than what is currently provided in the California Valley area and will be available to all residents at no additional cost to the County. Board approval of this agreement will contribute to the County's Vision of a Healthy, Safe and Well-Governed Community.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Emergency Services Contract with First Solar
2. EMSA Memo re First Solar Contract